

CLAIMS

[32] 1. A system for securing a visible facing object to a rigid supporting structure using fastening means whereby, in use, the fastening means is indistinguishable from the area surrounding the fastening means from a very short distance away and virtually vandal proof, said system including

[33] a supporting structure,

[34] a visible facing object of stone or similar frangible material, and

[35] fastening means for securing the visible facing object to the supporting structure,

[36] said fastening means being indistinguishable from the area surrounding the fastening means from a very short distance away,

[37] said fastening means further being virtually vandal proof.

[38] 2. The system of claim 1 further characterized in that

[39] that portion of the fastening means which is visible only within a very short distance away is activateable only by non-standard tool means.

[40] 3. The system of claim 1 further characterized in that

[41] no portion of the fastening means extends outwardly from the exterior surface of the visible facing object.

[42] 4. The system of claim 1 further characterized in that

[43] the fastening means can secure the visible facing object to the supporting structure one or more times with a tight securement.

[44] 5. The system of claim 1 further characterized in that

[45] the only visible portion of the visible facing object is an access hole in the faceplate.

[46] 6. The system of claim 5 further characterized in that

[47] said access hole is located in a design on the visible surface of the visible facing object.

[48] 7. The system of claim 6 further characterized in that

[49] at least a portion of the design on the visible surface of the visible facing object is linear,

[50] the size of the access hole being the same or substantially the same as that portion of the linear design within which it is located.

[51] 8. The system of claim 1 further characterized in that

[52] the fastening means is accessible through a small access hole in the exterior, viewable surface of the visible facing object extending part way into the body thereof, and further including

[53] a larger access hole in the interior hidden surface of the visible facing object which is axially concentric with the smaller access hole and extends into the body of said object from the interior surface thereof until it connects with the small access hole,

[54] an opening in the supporting structure of a size suitable to slidably receive the threaded end of a rivet nut,

[55] a rivet nut screw having a head received in the larger access hole,

[56] a tube surrounding the rivet nut screw and extending between the rivet nut in its as made condition and the base of the larger access hole,

[57] the size of the access hole being slightly larger than (a) the diameter of the head of the rivet nut screw and (b) twice the thickness of the wall of the tube,

[58] the head of the screw having means aligned with the small access hole to receive a tool for activating the rivet nut.

[59] 9. The system of claim 8 further characterized in that

[60] the aligned means in the screw head for receiving an actuating tool is a torx socket and

[61] the tool is a torx screwdriver.

[62] 10. The system of claim 9 further characterized,

[63] firstly, in that the torx socket in the screw head is of a size different from the size of a standard torx socket, and

[64] secondly, in that the size of the head of the torx screwdriver is different from a standard torx screwdriver head.

[65] 11. The system of claim 10 further characterized in that

[66] the size of the torx socket in the head of the rivet nut screw and the size of the head of the torx screwdriver are intermediate standard torx sizes.

[67] 12. The system of claim 11 further characterized in that

[68] the end of the tube which is received in the large access hole is slotted to form prongs which may be expanded outwardly thereby increasing pressure upon the wall of the hole upon application of the head of the screw upon the prongs.

[69] 13. The system of claim 12 further characterized in that

[70] the visible facing object is a faceplate of a columbarium.

[71] 14. The system of claim 12 further characterized in that

[72] the torx socket in the head of the rivet nut screw includes a centrally located center pin, and

[73] the head of the torx screwdriver includes a recess which receives the center pin

[74] to thereby place the torx screwdriver into operative engagement with the rivet nut screw.

[75] 15. Fastening means for securing an object of stone or other similar frangible material to supporting structure,

[76] said fastening means, when installed and activated, being indistinguishable to the eye from a point of a few feet away from said object.

[77] 16. The fastening means of claim 15 further characterized in that

[78] the fastening means is located inwardly from the edge and corners of the object.

[79] 17. In a method of assembling, disassembling and re-assembling an object of stone or similar frangible material to a supporting structure which is virtually vandal proof and non-visible, the steps of

[80] providing fastening means having an access aperture which is indistinguishable from a few feet away extending through the visible face of the object and which, when activated, secures the object to the supporting structure,

[81] securing the object to the supporting structure by operation of a tool inserted into the access aperture which engages the fastening means.

[82] 18. The method of claim 17 further characterized in that

[83] the tool is a non-standard torx screwdriver,

[84] said access aperture being of a size to snugly, but rotatably, receive the screwdriver.

[85] 19. The method of claim 18 further characterized by the steps of

[86] snugly securing the object to the supporting structure in the initial assembly of the object to the supporting structure,

[87] thereafter dis-assembling the object from the fastening means, and

[88] thereafter tightly securing the object to the supporting structure.

[89] 20. The method of claim 19 wherein

[90] the step of snugly securing the object to its supporting structure occurs only once, and

[91] the step of tightly securing the object to the supporting structure occurs thereafter.